# A TRUE COPY

Of the Inſtrument of

# ASSOCIATION

## That the *Proteſtants* of *England* entred into, in the 27*th*. Year of Queen *Elizabeth*; againſt a *Popiſh* Conſpiracy. With an *Act* made upon the ſame, for the ſecurity of the Queen's Moſt Royal Perſon.

FOraſmuch as Almighty God hath Ordained *Kings*, *Queens*, and *Princes*, to have Dominion and Rule over all their Subjects, and to preſerve them in the Poſſeſſion and Obſervation of the true Chriſtian Religion, according to his Holy Word and Commandment: And in like ſort, That all Subjects ſhould *Love*, *Fear*, and *Obey* their Sovereign Princes, being *Kings* or *Queens*, to the utmoſt of their Power; at all times, to Withſtand, Purſue, and Suppreſs all manner of Perſons that ſhall by any means intend and attempt any thing dangerous or hurtful to the Honor, States, or Perſons of their Sovereigns.

Therefore, we whoſe Names are or ſhall be Subſcribed to this Writing, *being Natural-born Subjects of this Realm of* England, and having ſo Gracious a Lady our Sovereign *Elizabeth*, by the Ordinance of God, our moſt Rightful Queen, Reigning over us theſe many Years with

great Felicity, to our Ineſtimable Comfort: And finding lately by divers *Depoſitions*, *Confeſſions*, and ſundry *Advertiſements*, *out of Foreign parts from Credible Perſons*, well known to Her *Majeſties Council*, and to divers others; that for the furtherance and advancement of ſome pretended Title to the Crown, it hath been manifeſted that the *Life* of our Gracious Sovereign Lady Queen *Elizabeth*, hath been moſt dangerouſly expoſed to the Peril of Her Perſon; if Almighty God Her perpetual Defender, of his Mercy had not revealed and withſtood the ſame. By whoſe Life, we and all other Her Majeſties True and Loyal Subjects, do enjoy an Ineſtimable Benefit of Peace in this Land, do for the Reaſons and Cauſes before alledged, not only acknowledg our ſelves moſt juſtly bound with our Lives and Goods for her Defence, in her ſafety, to perſecute, ſuppreſs, and withſtand all ſuch Pretenders, and all other her Enemies, of what Nation, Condition, and Degree, whatſoever they ſhall be, or by what Council or Title they ſhall pretend to be her Enemies, or to attempt any harm upon her Perſon; but do further think it our Bounden Duties, for the great benefit of Peace and Wealth, and Godly Government, we have more plentifully received theſe many Years, under Her Majeſties Government, than any of our Fore-fathers have done in any longer time of any other Progenitors, Kings of this Realm.

Do declare, and by this Writing make manifeſt, our Bounden Duties to our ſaid Sovereign Lady for her Safety. *And to that end, we, and every of us, firſt calling to Witneſs the Name of Almighty God, do voluntarily and moſt willingly bind our ſelves, every one of us to the other, jointly and ſeverally in the Band of one firm and Loyal Society; and do hereby Vow and Promiſe by the MAJESTY of ALMIGHTY GOD, that with our whole Powers, Bodies, Lives, and Goods, and with our Children and Servants; we, and every of us, will faithfully ſerve and humbly obey our ſaid Sovereign Lady Queen* Elizabeth, *againſt all States, Dignities, and earthly Powers whatſoever; and will as well with our joynt and particular Forces, during our Lives, withſtand, offend, and purſue, as well by Forces of Arms, as by all other means of Revenge; all manner of Perſons, of what State ſoever they ſhall be and their Abettors, that ſhall attempt any Act, Council, or Conſent to any thing that ſhall tend to the harm of Her Majeſties Royal Perſon, and will never deſiſt from all manner of forcible purſuit againſt ſuch Perſons,*

to

*to the utter Extermination of them, their Counſellors, Aiders, and Abet-*[323]
*ters.*

And if any ſuch wicked Attempt againſt her moſt Royal Perſon, ſhall be taken in hand and procured, whereby any that have, may, or ſhall pretend Title to come to this Crown, by the untimely death of her Majeſty, ſo wickedly procured (which God for his mercy ſake forbid) may be avenged; *we do not only bind our ſelves both joyntly, and ſeverally never to allow, accept, or favour any ſuch pretended Succeſſor, by whom, or for whom any ſuch deteſtable Act ſhall be attempted or committed, as unworthy of all Government in any Chriſtian Realm or Civil State.*

But do alſo further Vow and Proteſt, as we are moſt bound, and that in the *Preſence of the Eternal and Everlaſting God*, to Proſecute ſuch Perſon and Perſons to Death with our joynt or practical Forces, and to ask the utmoſt Revenge upon them that by any means, we or any of us can deviſe and do, or cauſe to be deviſed and done for their utter overthrow and Extirpation.

And to the better *Corroboration* of this our *Royal Band and Aſſociation*, we do alſo teſtifie by this Writing, that we do confirm the Contents hereof by our *Oaths* Corporally taken upon the *Holy Evangeliſts*, with this expreſs Condition; that no one of us ſhall for any reſpect of *Perſons* or *Cauſes*, or for *Fear* or *Reward*, ſeparate our ſelves from this ASSOCIATION, or fail in the Proſecution thereof, *during our Lives*, upon Pain of being by the reſt of us Proſecuted, and *Suppreſſed as Perjured Perſons, and Publick Enemies to God, Our Queen and to our Native Country.* To which Puniſhments and Pains we do voluntarily ſubmit our ſelves, and every of us, without benefit of any Colour and Pretence.

In Witneſs of all which promiſes to be inviolably kept, we do to this Writing put our Hands and Seals; and ſhall be moſt ready to accept and admit any others hereafter, to this Society and Aſſociation.

*An*

# *An Act for Proviſion to be made for the ſurety of the Queen's Majeſties moſt Royal Perſon, and the continuance of the Realm in Peace; Enacted in the 27th. Year of the Reign of Q.* Elizabeth.

Forasmuch as the Good Felicity and Comfort of the whole Eſtate of this Realm conſiſteth (only next under God) in the Surety and Preſervation of the Queen's Moſt Excellent Majeſty: And for that it hath manifeſtly appeared, that Sundry wicked Plots, and means have of late been deviſed and laid, as well in Foreign Parts beyond the Seas, as also within this Realm, to the great endangering of her Highneſs's Moſt Royal Perſon, and to the utter Ruine of the whole Common-wealth, if by God's Merciful Providence the ſame had not been Revealed: Therefore for preventing of ſuch great Perils as might hereafter otherwiſe grow by the like deteſtable and deviliſh Practices, at the humble Suite and earneſt Petition and deſire of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Commons in this Preſent Parliament Aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame Parliament. Be it Enacted and Ordained, if at any time after the end of this Preſent Seſſion of Parliament, any open Invaſion or Rebellion ſhall be had or made into or within any of Her Majeſties Realms or Dominions, or any Act attempted, tending to the Hurt of Her Majeſties Moſt Royal Perſon, by or for any Perſon that ſhall or may pretend any Title to the Crown of this Realm after Her Majeſties Deceaſe: Or if any thing ſhall be Compaſſed or Imagined, tending to the hurt of Her Majeſties Royal Perſon, by any Perſon or with the Privity of any Perſon that ſhall or may Pretend Title to the Crown of this Realm: That then by Her Majeſties Commiſſion under Her Great Seal the Lords and others of Her Highneſſes Privy Council, and ſuch other Lords of Parliament to be named by Her Majeſties as with the ſaid Privy Council ſhall make up the number of Twenty four at the leaſt, having with them for their Aſſiſtance in that behalf ſuch of the Judges of the Courts of Record at *weſtminſter*, as Her Highneſs ſhall for that purpoſe Aſſign and Appoint, or the more part of the ſame Council, Lords

and

and Judges, ſhall by Virtue of this Act have Authority to Examin all and every the Offences aforeſaid, and all Circumſtances thereof, and thereupon to give Sentence or Judgments as upon good Proof, the Matter ſhall appear unto them: And that after ſuch Sentence or Judgment given, and Declaration thereof made and Publiſhed, by Her Majeſties Proclamation, under the Great Seal of *England*, all Perſons againſt whom ſuch Sentence or Judgment ſhall be ſo given and Publiſhed, ſhall be Excluded and Diſabled for ever to have or Claim, or to pretend to have or Claim the Crown of this Realm, or any of Her Majeſties Dominions, any former Law, or Statute whatſoever to the Contrary in any wiſe notwithſtanding: And that thereupon all Her Highneſſes Subjects ſhall and may Lawfully by Virtue of this Act, and Her Majeſties Direction in that behalf, by all Forcible and Poſſible Means purſue to Death every ſuch Wicked Perſons, by whom, or by whoſe means, Aſſent or Privity, any ſuch Invaſion or Rebellion ſhall be in Form aforeſaid denounced to have been made, or ſuch Wicked Act Attempted, or other thing compaſſed or imagined againſt Her Majeſties Perſon, and all their Aiders, Comfortors and Abettors. 325

And if any ſuch deteſtable Act ſhall be Executed againſt Her Highneſs moſt Royal Perſon, whereby Her Majeſties Life ſhall be taken away (which God of his great Mercy forbid) that then every ſuch Perſon, by or for whom any ſuch Act ſhall be Executed, and their Iſſues being any wiſe Aſſenting or Privy to the ſame, ſhall by vertue of this Act, be excluded and diſabled for ever, to have or claim, or to pretend to have or claim the ſaid Crown of this Realm, or of any other Her Highneſs Dominions, any former Law or Statute whatſoever to the contrary, in any wiſe nonwithſtanding. And that all the Subjects of this Realm, and all other her Majeſties Dominions, ſhall and may Lawfully by vertue of this Act, by all forcible and poſſible means purſue to death every ſuch wicked Perſon, by whom, or by whoſe means, any ſuch deteſtable Fact ſhall be in form hereafter expreſſed, denounced to have been Committed, and alſo their Iſſues being any way aſſenting or privy to the ſame, and all their Aiders, Comforters, and Abbetters in that behalf.

And to the end that the intenſion of this Law may be effectually Exe-

cuted, if Her Majesties Life shall be taken away, by any violent or unnatural means (which God defend:) Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the Lords and others which shall be of Her Majesties Privy Council at the time of such her decease, or the more part of the same Council, joyning unto them for their better Assistance, five other Earls, and seven other Lords of Parliament at the least, (foreseeing that none of the said Earls, Lords or Council be known to be Persons that may make any Title to the Crown) those Persons which were chief Justices of either Bench, Master of the Roles, and chief Baron of the Exchequer at the time of Her Majesties death, or in default of the said Justices, Master of the Roles, and Chief Baron, some other of those which were Justices of some of the Courts of Records at *Westminster*, at the time of her Highness decease, to supply their places, or any twenty four, or more of them, whereof eight to be Lords of Parliament, not being of the Privy Council, shall to the uttermost of their power and skill examine the Cause and Manner of such Her Majesties death, and what Persons shall be any way guilty thereof, and all Circumstances concerning the same according to the true meaning of this Act, and thereupon shall by open Parliament publish the same, and without any delay by all forcible and possible means prosecute to death, all such as shall be found to be Offenders therein, and all their Aiders and Abetters: And for the doing thereof, and for the withstanding and suppressing of all such Power and Force, as shall any way be Levy'd or stirred in disturbance of the due Execution of this Law, shall by vertue of this Act, have Power and Authority not only to raise and use such Force as shall in that behalf be needful and convenient. but also to use all other means and things possible and necessary for the Maintenance of the same Force, and Prosecution of the said Offenders. And if any such Power and Force shall be Levied or stirred in disturbance of the due Execution of this Law, by any Person that shall or may pretend any Title to the Crown of this Realm, whereby this Law may not in all things be fully Executed, according to the effect and true meaning of the same: That then every Person shall by virtue of this Act be therefore excluded and disabled for ever to have or Claim, or to pretend to have or Claim the Crown of this Realm, or of any other her Highness Dominions, any former Law or Statute whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

And

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all and every the Subjects of all Her Majesties Realms and Dominions, shall to the uttermost of their Power, aid and assist the said Counsel and all other the Lords and other Persons to be adjoyned unto them for Assistance, as is aforesaid in all things to be done and executed according to the effect and intention of this Law: And that no Subject of this Realm shall in any wise be Impeached in Body, Lands or Goods, at any time hereafter, for any thing to be done or executed according to the Tenour of this Law, any Law or Statute heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. And whereas of late many of Her Majesties good and faithfull Subjects, have in the name of God, and with the Testimony of good Consciences, by one uniform manner of Writing under their hands and seals, and by their several Oaths voluntaarily take, joyned themselves together in one Bond and ASSOCIATION, to withstand and revenge to the uttermost all such malicious Actions and Attempts against Her Majesties most Royal Person. Now for the full explaining of all such Ambiguities and Questions as otherwise might happen to grow by reason of any Sinister or wrong Construction, or Interpretation to be made or Inferred of or upon the words or meaning thereof, be it declared and enacted, by the Authority of this present Parliament, that the same ASSOCIATION and every Article and Sentance therein contained, as we concerning the disallowing, excluding, or disabling of any Person that may or shall pretend any Title to come to the Crown of this Realm, as also for the pursuing and taking revenge of any Person for any such wicked Act or Attempt as is mentioned in the same ASSOCIATION, shall and ought to be in all things expounded and adjudged according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, and not otherwise, nor against any other Person or Persons. 327

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# The Association drawn up and Signed by the High Court of Parliament now Assembled, in the 24th. of February, 169⅘.

WHereas there has been a Horrid and Detestable Conspiracy, Formed and Carried on by Papists, and other Wicked and Traiterous Persons, for Assassinating His Majesty's Royal Person, in Order to encourage an Invasion from *France*, to subvert our Religion, Laws, and Liberty: We whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do heartily, sincerely, and solemnly Profess, Testifie, and Declare, that His Present *Majesty*, King *William*, is Rightful and Lawful King of these Realms. And we do mutually Promise and Engage to stand by, and assist each other, to the utmost of our Power, in the Support and Defence of His Majesty's Most Sacred Person and Government, against the Late King *James*, and all his Adherents. And in Case His Majesty come to any Violent or Untimely Death, (which God forbid) We do hereby further Freely and Unanimously oblige our selves, to Unite, Associate, and stand by each other, in Revenging the same upon his Enemies, and their Adherents; and in supporting and defending the Succession of the Crown, according to an Act made in the first Year of the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, Intituled, an Act Declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and settling the Succession of the Crown.

☞ In the 13*th.* Year of the said Queen were Enacted Two excellent Acts, *viz.* An Act whereby certain Offences were made Treason: The 2*d.* against Fugitives over the Sea.

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